

## Calendar No. 1027

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION**S. 3341****[Report No. 110–468]**

To reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management  
Improvement Act of 1999.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2008

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following  
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

Reported by Mr. LIEBERMAN, without amendment

**A BILL**

To reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance  
Management Improvement Act of 1999.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Federal Financial As-  
5       sistance Management Improvement Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

2 Section 11 of the Federal Financial Assistance Man-  
3 agement Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note)  
4 is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AND**  
6 **SUNSET**”; and

7 (2) by striking “and shall cease to be effective  
8 8 years after such date of enactment”.

9 **SEC. 3. WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.**

10 Section 6 of the Federal Financial Assistance Man-  
11 agement Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note)  
12 is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
14 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(e) WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish  
19 and maintain a public website that serves as a cen-  
20 tral point of information and access for applicants  
21 for Federal grants.

22 “(2) CONTENTS.—To the maximum extent pos-  
23 sible, the website established under this subsection  
24 shall include, at a minimum, for each Federal  
25 grant—

26 “(A) the grant announcement;

1 “(B) the statement of eligibility relating to  
2 the grant;

3 “(C) the application requirements for the  
4 grant;

5 “(D) the purposes of the grant;

6 “(E) the Federal agency funding the  
7 grant; and

8 “(F) the deadlines for applying for and  
9 awarding of the grant.

10 “(3) USE BY APPLICANTS.—The website estab-  
11 lished under this subsection shall, to the greatest ex-  
12 tent practical, allow grant applicants to—

13 “(A) search the website for all Federal  
14 grants by type, purpose, funding agency, pro-  
15 gram source, and other relevant criteria;

16 “(B) apply for a Federal grant using the  
17 website;

18 “(C) manage, track, and report on the use  
19 of Federal grants using the website; and

20 “(D) provide all required certifications and  
21 assurances for a Federal grant using the  
22 website.”; and

23 (3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by  
24 striking “All actions” and inserting “Except for ac-

1        tions relating to establishing the website required  
 2        under subsection (e), all actions”.

3    **SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.**

4        The Federal Financial Assistance Management Im-  
 5        provement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended  
 6        by striking section 7 and inserting the following:

7    **“SEC. 7. EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.**

8        “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after  
 9        the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance  
 10       Management Improvement Act of 2008, and every 2 years  
 11       thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date  
 12       of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Manage-  
 13       ment Improvement Act of 2008, the Director shall submit  
 14       to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this  
 15       Act.

16       “(b) CONTENTS.—

17                “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report under sub-  
 18       section (a) shall include, for the applicable period—

19                        “(A) a list of all grants for which an appli-  
 20       cant may submit an application using the  
 21       website established under section 6(e);

22                        “(B) a list of all Federal agencies that pro-  
 23       vide Federal financial assistance to non-Federal  
 24       entities;

1           “(C) a list of each Federal agency that has  
2           complied, in whole or in part, with the require-  
3           ments of this Act;

4           “(D) for each Federal agency listed under  
5           subparagraph (C), a description of the extent of  
6           the compliance with this Act by the Federal  
7           agency;

8           “(E) a list of all Federal agencies exempt-  
9           ed under section 6(d);

10          “(F) for each Federal agency listed under  
11          subparagraph (E)—

12               “(i) an explanation of why the Fed-  
13               eral agency was exempted; and

14               “(ii) a certification that the basis for  
15               the exemption of the Federal agency is still  
16               applicable;

17          “(G) a list of all common application forms  
18          that have been developed that allow non-Fed-  
19          eral entities to apply, in whole or in part, for  
20          multiple Federal financial assistance programs  
21          (including Federal financial assistance pro-  
22          grams administered by different Federal agen-  
23          cies) through a single common application;

24          “(H) a list of all common forms and re-  
25          quirements that have been developed that allow

1 non-Federal entities to report, in whole or in  
2 part, on the use of funding from multiple Fed-  
3 eral financial assistance programs (including  
4 Federal financial assistance programs adminis-  
5 tered by different Federal agencies);

6 “(I) a description of the efforts made by  
7 the Director and Federal agencies to commu-  
8 nicate and collaborate with representatives of  
9 non-Federal entities during the implementation  
10 of the requirements under this Act;

11 “(J) a description of the efforts made by  
12 the Director to work with Federal agencies to  
13 meet the goals of this Act, including a descrip-  
14 tion of working groups or other structures used  
15 to coordinate Federal efforts to meet the goals  
16 of this Act; and

17 “(K) identification and description of all  
18 systems being used to disburse Federal finan-  
19 cial assistance to non-Federal entities.

20 “(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The second re-  
21 port submitted under subsection (a), and each sub-  
22 sequent report submitted under subsection (a), shall  
23 include—

24 “(A) a discussion of the progress made by  
25 the Federal Government in meeting the goals of

1           this Act, including the amendments made by  
2           the Federal Financial Assistance Management  
3           Improvement Act of 2008, and in implementing  
4           the strategic plan submitted under section 8,  
5           including an evaluation of the progress of each  
6           Federal agency that has not received an exemp-  
7           tion under section 6(d) towards implementing  
8           the strategic plan; and

9           “(B) a compilation of the reports sub-  
10          mitted under section 8(c)(3) during the applica-  
11          ble period.

12          “(c) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PERIOD.—In this  
13          section, the term ‘applicable period’ means—

14               “(1) for the first report submitted under sub-  
15               section (a), the most recent full fiscal year before  
16               the date of the report; and

17               “(2) for the second report submitted under sub-  
18               section (a), and each subsequent report submitted  
19               under subsection (a), the period beginning on the  
20               date on which the most recent report under sub-  
21               section (a) was submitted and ending on the date of  
22               the report.”.

1 **SEC. 5. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Financial Assistance  
3 Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101  
4 note) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating sections 8, 9, 10, and 11  
6 as sections 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after section 7, as amended by  
8 this Act, the following:

9 **“SEC. 8. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after  
11 the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance  
12 Management Improvement Act of 2008, the Director shall  
13 submit to Congress a strategic plan that—

14 “(1) identifies Federal financial assistance pro-  
15 grams that are suitable for common applications  
16 based on the common or similar purposes of the  
17 Federal financial assistance;

18 “(2) identifies Federal financial assistance pro-  
19 grams that are suitable for common reporting forms  
20 or requirements based on the common or similar  
21 purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

22 “(3) identifies common aspects of multiple Fed-  
23 eral financial assistance programs that are suitable  
24 for common application or reporting forms or re-  
25 quirements;



1           “(4) identifies changes in law, if any, needed to  
2       achieve the goals of this Act; and

3           “(5) provides plans, timelines, and cost esti-  
4       mates for—

5           “(A) developing an entirely electronic, web-  
6       based process for managing Federal financial  
7       assistance, including the ability to—

8           “(i) apply for Federal financial assist-  
9       ance;

10          “(ii) track the status of applications  
11       for and payments of Federal financial as-  
12       sistance;

13          “(iii) report on the use of Federal fi-  
14       nancial assistance, including how such use  
15       has been in furtherance of the objectives or  
16       purposes of the Federal financial assist-  
17       ance; and

18          “(iv) provide required certifications  
19       and assurances;

20          “(B) ensuring full compliance by Federal  
21       agencies with the requirements of this Act, in-  
22       cluding the amendments made by the Federal  
23       Financial Assistance Management Improvement  
24       Act of 2008;

1           “(C) creating common applications for the  
2           Federal financial assistance programs identified  
3           under paragraph (1), regardless of whether the  
4           Federal financial assistance programs are ad-  
5           ministered by different Federal agencies;

6           “(D) establishing common financial and  
7           performance reporting forms and requirements  
8           for the Federal financial assistance programs  
9           identified under paragraph (2), regardless of  
10          whether the Federal financial assistance pro-  
11          grams are administered by different Federal  
12          agencies;

13          “(E) establishing common applications and  
14          financial and performance reporting forms and  
15          requirements for aspects of the Federal finan-  
16          cial assistance programs identified under para-  
17          graph (3), regardless of whether the Federal fi-  
18          nancial assistance programs are administered  
19          by different Federal agencies;

20          “(F) developing mechanisms to ensure  
21          compatibility between Federal financial assist-  
22          ance administration systems and State systems  
23          to facilitate the importing and exporting of  
24          data;

1           “(G) developing common certifications and  
2           assurances, as appropriate, for all Federal fi-  
3           nancial assistance programs that have common  
4           or similar purposes, regardless of whether the  
5           Federal financial assistance programs are ad-  
6           ministered by different Federal agencies; and

7           “(H) minimizing the number of different  
8           systems used to disburse Federal financial as-  
9           sistance.

10       “(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing and imple-  
11       menting the strategic plan under subsection (a), the Direc-  
12       tor shall consult with representatives of non-Federal enti-  
13       ties and Federal agencies that have not received an exemp-  
14       tion under section 6(d).

15       “(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

16       “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months  
17       after the date on which the Director submits the  
18       strategic plan under subsection (a), the head of each  
19       Federal agency that has not received an exemption  
20       under section 6(d) shall develop a plan that de-  
21       scribes how the Federal agency will carry out the re-  
22       sponsibilities of the Federal agency under the stra-  
23       tegic plan, which shall include—

1           “(A) clear performance objectives and  
2           timelines for action by the Federal agency in  
3           furtherance of the strategic plan; and

4           “(B) the identification of measures to im-  
5           prove communication and collaboration with  
6           representatives of non-Federal entities on an  
7           on-going basis during the implementation of  
8           this Act.

9           “(2) CONSULTATION.—The head of each Fed-  
10          eral agency that has not received an exemption  
11          under section 6(d) shall consult with representatives  
12          of non-Federal entities during the development and  
13          implementation of the plan of the Federal agency  
14          developed under paragraph (1).

15          “(3) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after  
16          the date on which the head of a Federal agency that  
17          has not received an exemption under section 6(d) de-  
18          velops the plan under paragraph (1), and every 2  
19          years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after  
20          the date of enactment of the Federal Financial As-  
21          sistance Management Improvement Act of 2008, the  
22          head of the Federal agency shall submit to the Di-  
23          rector a report regarding the progress of the Federal  
24          agency in achieving the objectives of the plan of the  
25          Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).”.

1       (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
2 Section 5(d) of the Federal Financial Assistance Manage-  
3 ment Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note)  
4 is amended by inserting “, until the date on which the  
5 Federal agency submits the first report by the Federal  
6 agency required under section 8(c)(3)” after “subsection  
7 (a)(7)”.

Calendar No. 1027

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> Session

**S. 3341**

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## A BILL

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

Reported without amendment